

HAND WOVEN
COMMUNITY CRAFT WEAVERS

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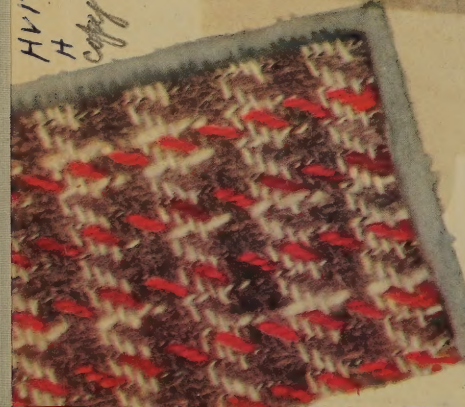


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DAVIDOW FOR SAKS-FIFTH
AVENUE AND I. MAGNIN



HAMPTON COATS
FOR LORD & TAYLOR



RUBIN-HOLSTEN, INC.,
FOR BEST & COMPANY

Fashions ART- Spr. 1935
Vol. 1 - No. 3.



SIDNEY M. CAHN FOR
BERGDORF GOODMAN



J. HORWITZ FOR
BONWIT TELLER

WOMEN

IT IS one of the minor tragedies of life that the men whose skilled fingers work the fabrics shown on this page will never see them. We use the word "minor" advisedly, for although the Community Craft Weavers are blind, it would be hard to find a more cheerful group of workers than these men, whose exquisite sensibility of touch has taken the place of eyes, and made them self-supporting members of the community. How successful they are is best attested by the list of those who are making up and selling Community Craft Fabrics this spring. The list reads like a "Who's Who" of the fashion industry.

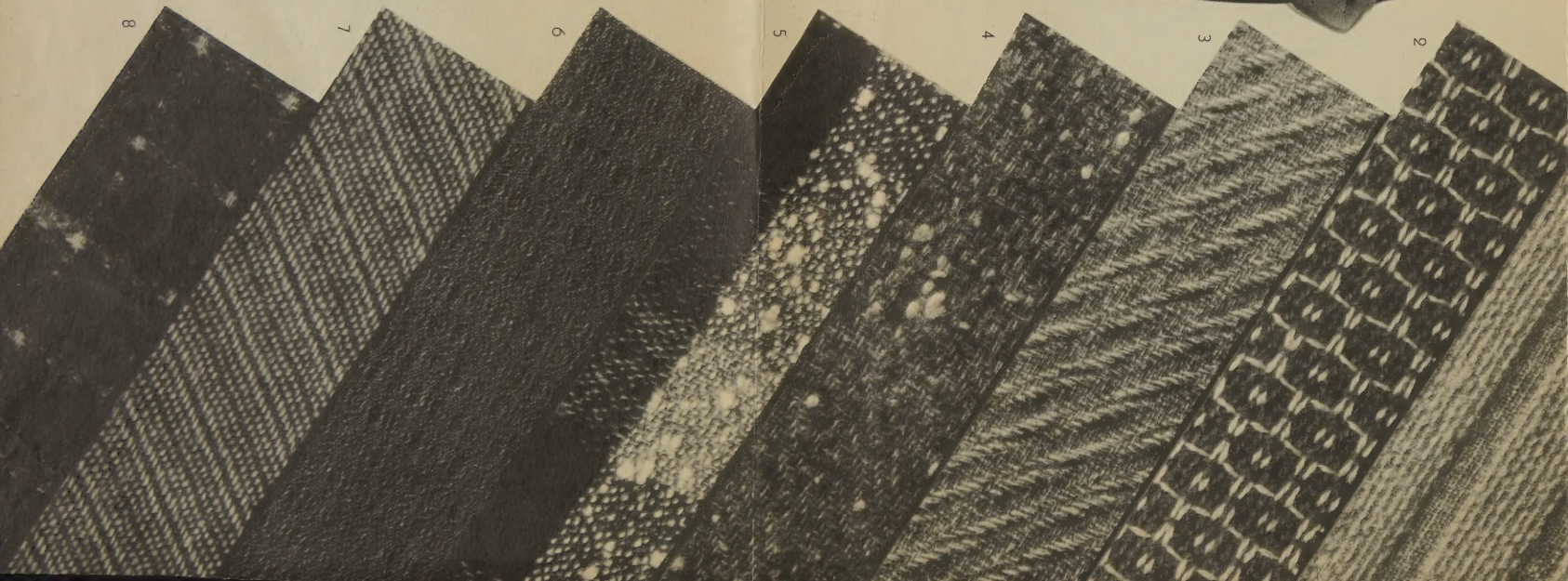
There's a good reason for this. The men and women behind this enterprise are both practical and philanthropic. They insist upon products which [Continued on page 77]





creation in putting together patterns and weaves to individual effect. Stroock is offering three-way combinations for suit and coat ensembles including a light and dark check and a plain fabric, or a fine stripe, check and plain. These may also be used for two-piece dress and coat costumes. B. M. Kaufman matches his colors but contrasts the weaves in companion wools. A sheer wool dress fabric is matched to a novelty rib for a coat. [Continued on page 84]

The woolens photographed at the right on this page are from the following firms: 1. A. D. Juilliard & Co. 2. Collins & Aikman Corp. 3. B. M. Kaufman, Inc. 4. American Woolen Co. 5. Dering Milliken & Co. 6. Botany Worsted Mills. 7. S. Stroock & Co. 8. Marshall Field & Co.



will stand on their own merits in the open market. There is nothing "arty" or amateurish about these Community Craft fabrics. They are even and firm in weave, fifty-four inches wide, and come in such smart new textures and individual colorings that designers who see them are immediately seized with the urge to get at them with needle and shears. Such fabrics have hitherto been available only in imports, at much higher prices. Not only are such manufacturers as David Crystal and many others using these fabrics, and the most exclusive shops selling them in finished garments, but stores around the country are beginning to stock them for their piece goods departments. They are already carried by Lord & Taylor, B. Altman and Company and a number of other important New York stores.

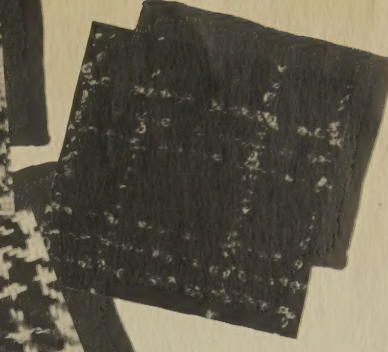
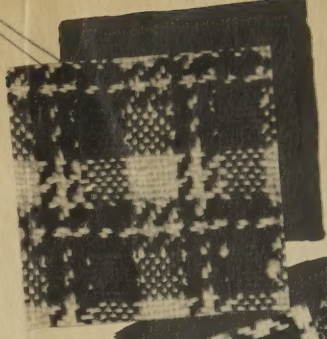
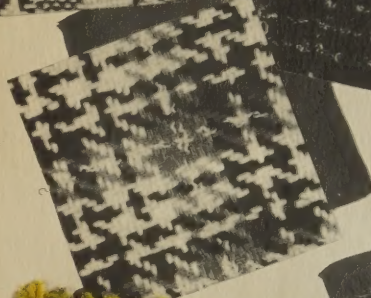
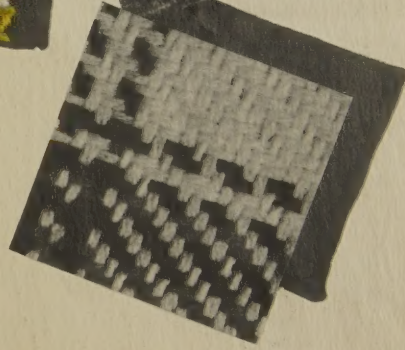
The Community Craft Weavers, Inc., is a part of the industrial department of the Community Workers of the New York Guild for the Blind. Community House, their headquarters at 172 East 96th Street, was started twenty years ago by a group of socially minded people, to provide recreational and educational training for the blind. Leading spirits in the work are Mr. Henry K. Heyman, Chairman of the Board of Directors, and Mrs. Morris Marx, Executive Secretary. Mrs. Marx has been the head of the vocational work since its inception. It was under her direction that textile weaving was introduced ten years ago, to provide occupation and livelihood for men. The work began with one loom, one weaver and

one supervisor. Today there are fourteen large looms and ten small ones, with twelve skilled weavers and a staff of five, consisting of Miss Helen Cashriel, designer and supervisor, a foreman who is a skilled technician, his assistant, and two "sighted aids" as they are called, who go from loom to loom watching for any possible errors. The errors are amazingly few. Finger tips that can read Braille dots can easily detect the slightest difference in tension of threads or inequalities in yarn. The capacity of the looms is one hundred yards a day.

The present vogue for hand-loomed individual fabrics in women's sportswear, and the difficulty and expense of getting them from the other side, has given great impetus to the work of the Community Craft Weavers. In preparing their fabrics to meet this demand, valuable aid has been given by Mr. B. A. Stroock, in an advisory capacity. Mrs. C. Caruthers Dorsey, formerly associated with Bullock's and I. Magnin and Company, has been added to the staff as sales representative.

The spring line of Community Craft fabrics includes fascinating new weaves and colorings, a number of which are illustrated with this article, both in made-up sportswear and children's fashions and in swatches. Weaves include combinations of wool and mohair, fine zephyrs and novelty yarns. Much stress is laid on English colorings, soft pastels and grayed tones. High colors are shown in dégradé checks, overplaids and shadow plaids. The line contains coatings, suitings and dress weight fabrics.

FOREMOST
SPORTSWEAR
FOR
FRANKLIN SIMON



Gentlemen:
A few
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